PIONEER PRINTER SAW PRIMITIVE HAND PRESS TURNING OUT HERALD.

(By Charles B. Halpin, Calgary Herald, Nov. 18, 1933.)

Forty-nine years ago the writer made his first visit to Calgary. Having put in a few months learning typesetting in Winnipeg, I tired of the monotony of standing at a "case" and secured a job with a construction company, Cory Bros., who had contracts of the C.P.R. in the mountains. Calgary at this time was not a very impressive community. The settlers were just removing from the first location of Brewery Flats to the new townsite on section 16. The mercantile centre was on the banks of the Elbow, where the H.B. Co. and I. G. Baker had trading stores, and a gentleman named Armour had his printing office.

Shacks were going up rapidly around what is now Centre street and the city proper lay between Centre street and First street east. From Centre street east there were no buildings except the store of G. C. King, located between First street and the police barracks.

Finishing my railway building, late in 1884, when the first news of the Riel rebellion came to hand, I hastened back to Winnipeg and joined up with Col. Scott's Winnipeg Rifles and spent the spring and summer keeping the Indians and halfbreeds of the North West Territories quiet. The rebellion being put down I again returned to Calgary.

My first connection with the Herald was late in the fall of 1885. The daily had been started during the rebellion and with a small telegraphic service had kept citizens of Alberta posted on its progress. The plant was located in a small frame building, still standing on the original site, next to the Hatfield building on Eighth avenue just opposite the post office.

Even at this early date the Herald was showing progress. The Washington hand press, on which the first editions were printed, had been superseded

by the latest thing in cylinder presses, the Prouty cylinder, manufactured in the States, which had a capacity of 400 copies an hour, if the man at the wheel had plenty of stamina. The press was of ingenious construction -- and was dubbed "the grasshopper". The cylinder was attached to two long arms and ran from one end of the press to the other, carrying the sheets over the forms and dropping them off at the rear. The bed was in the centre of the machine and when the impression had been made, dropped down about half an inch with a thud, to allow the cylinder to return. As long as the thud kept up we knew the press was functioning.

The mechanical staff consisted of Col. Edwards, an old timer who drifted in from the other side, and myself, with a boy to clean up. I set most of the type and the colonel looked after the jobbing end.

Colonel Edwards was a printer of the old school. He could do anything with type, and could talk for hours on his adventures as a "tramp printer" in all parts of the continent, and was something of an inventor. One of his labor-saving devices resulted in the Herald having the first elevator system in Calgary.

Tiring of carrying the forms downstairs to the press room, he cut a hole in t the floor sufficient to let the forms through, made a frame to stand them up in, and with a board across the front let them down to the press room with a rope. On at least two occasions he forgot to place the board across the forms, with the result that as soon as they passed through the floor they took a header the rest of the way, and the place was filled with flying type and profanity. Then the daily would be held up while a couple of pages were made up from our store of plate miscellany.

This plate service was a necessity in the early days. It was shipped in from the east by the hundreds of columns or so, and if it was not possible to fill up the paper with home news, it was filled with plates.

It happened, though, that if the office was a little short of cash, the orders for this service would be delayed and we would have to run the lot over again, beginning at the bottom of the pile. During the first run the imported news gave the readers some fair reading matter, but after it had been reprinted a few times subscribers would complain that it was becoming monotonous.

The initial Herald holds the distinction of being the first western newspaper to use cartoons made in Calgary. During the Travis-Cayley unpleasantness Jack Innes, the well known western artist supplied a series of snappy cartoons. He used the chalk plate process and produced the plates in a home-made caster, and if his supply of plates was low a blank would be left in the front page and the cartoon produced by a mimeograph process. His cartoons made a great hit at the time.

Other papers began to make their appearance about this time. Dave Nulty, another old time printer who was employed on the Tribune, got a case of type and started The Nor-Wester. Its life was short and not successful. The Live Stock Journal was started by Major Hatton, and very soon absorbed by the Herald.

Among those who in the early days helped in no small way to place the Herald before the people was Everett Marshall, now publisher of the Market Examiner. Ev was chief of the news boys and also kept his eyes open for a likely looking man to turn the press, being aware that in the event of one not being available he and his other newsies would have to take their turn at the wheel in order to get the edition out on time.

Keeping pace with the growth of the city the business of the Herald increased rapidly and it was soon necessary to procure larger premises. An office

was secured on Centre street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, and the plant enlarged. These premises were soon outgrown and a location was secured on Eighth avenue, just opposite the Norman block, and the plant equipped with heavier machinery.

Another move was then made to the T. S. C. Lee building on Eighth avenue opposite the old Alberta hotel. To keep up with its growth of business the Herald, then owned by the late J. J. Young, installed a larger press, which meant that the paper could be printed in half the time, two feeders being on the job. The plant was now of city proportions, with a staff of seven printers, and was producing work for all parts of the North West Territories and British Columbia. At this time the Herlad issued the first edition of "Picturesque Calgary", a work of art which secured a great circulation throughout Canada and the Old Country.

Still under the management of J. J. Young, in 1900 the Herald erected a modern office building on Centre street north, and installed two linotypes, the first in the west, and added a new press and a modern printing plant. The first linotype operators in the history of Calgary were "Mike" (Dr. M.C.) Costello, and Everett Marshall.

After a few years' residence in Portage la Prairie, where I published the Manitoba Liberal in company with the late Dr. J. G. Rutherford and John McPherson, first publisher of the Edmonton Journal, I returned to Calgary and 32 years ago purchased the Calgary Tribune from M. C. Bernard, barrister, who had it bounce back on him as the result of a mortgage and as the newspaper business was too strenuous for him was glad to dispose of it at a resonable figure.

Backed by an old friend, J.J. Young, then proprietor and editor of the Herald, the Tribune was taken over and the name of the publication changed

to "The Albertan" with the late Justice C. A. Stewart in the editorial chair. Shortly after this deal was completed W. M. Davidson came out of the east and purchased an interest in the Albertan, still a weekly, and a little later, when the daily was started, acquired the business. I then left Calgary for other fields and in 1906 purchased the Western Globe, at Lacombe, and with my sons have conducted this paper since that time.

But when I visit Calgary, after looking up the few of the earliest of the old timers, I visit the old Herald location of the early days, then go down to the present offices occupying one of the city's largest buildings, take a walk through the composing room with its battery of linotypes and other type-making devices, look over the very latest of printing presses with a capacity of producing 50,000 copies of the Herald an hour, I derive a certain feeling of pride in the fact that I was in a small measure a factor in the establishing of one of Canada's greatest newspapers.